

like to amend it to include the week of April 18th, and in the change from Forgotten Victims Week to the Victim Rights Week in Nebraska, I hope Senator Goodrich will approve of because I feel that now because of the actions of the Legislature we are remembering the victims in Nebraska. The Legislature has been in the forefront, as I said, with the domestic violence program, with our Criminal Reparations Board, and last year, LB 477, which I sponsored and you passed, which grants into statute for the first time victim's rights, rights for victims. The Nebraska Legislature has not forgotten victims but we do have to keep on remembering and assisting victims as much as we can. We also have established by your actions last year in LB 477 two pilot programs which have been established in Kearney and in Lincoln and are actively assisting victims right now through the criminal justice process which in the past has been probably more devastating than the actual crime action itself. So, therefore, to be on a more positive note, I would urge you to amend this resolution to say it is Victim Rights Week in Nebraska. The Nebraska Legislature does remember victims and has and will continue to be in the forefront assisting victims and so I hope that you do vote for the amendment and then vote for the resolution. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Goodrich, on the amendment.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, I have no problem with the date of April 18th but would Senator Pirsch yield to a question please. I am just trying to get an idea, Carol, what's the difference between Victims Rights and Forgotten Victims, the two sets of words, what is your distinction between the two?

SENATOR PIRSCH: The National Organization of Victim Assistance has been probably the most active nationally of any, and when they first instituted this, and I believe it was 1979 that I brought the first resolution, and the National Organization of Victim Assistance at that time felt that victims were indeed forgotten, and because of that, to bring that to people's attention, they called it the Forgotten Victims Week. Now we have come and in state after state we have established victims rights in the laws and we have looked at the problems of the victims. Now the National Organization of Victim Assistance as well as the Aurora group of victims rights has said, okay, we are starting to think about victims and now we know that victims have rights and, therefore, they have changed this nationally to Victim Rights Week.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Okay, thank you, Carol. I would accept the whole amendment just as she has offered it. I think it is appropriate.